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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of: ) Date: May 4, 2005  
Andrei Obrea, et al. ) Attorney Docket No.: F-758  
Serial No.: 10/729,503 ) Customer No.: 00919  
Filed: December 5, 2003 ) Group Art Unit: 3651  
Confirmation No.: 1959

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING MAIL THEFT USING  
ADDITIONAL MAILPIECES AS PROBES

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1. ☒ 37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

**\*\* Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

3.1.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

AND

3.2 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.


A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of a foreign Search Report in a corresponding application is enclosed.

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith except for U.S. Patents and Patent Application Publications as this patent application was filed after June 30, 2003.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On May 4, 2005  
Date of Deposit

George M. Macdonald  
Name of Registered Rep.

  
Signature

May 4, 2005  
Date



<b>FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>	Atty. Docket Number <b>F-758</b>	Serial No. <b>10/729,503</b>
	Applicant <b>Andrei Obrea, et al.</b>	
	Filing Date <b>December 5, 2003</b>	Group <b>3651</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	4,796,180	1/3/89	P.I. Riley	364	400	10/14/86
	AB	5,786,748	7/28/98	J.E. Nikolic et al.	340	311.1	2/28/97
	AC	5,043,908	8/27/91	F.M. Manduley et al.	364	478	10/3/89
	AD	5,388,049	2/7/95	R.P. Sansone et al.	364	464.02	8/11/93
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

**FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL	WO 02/21383A1	3/14/02	WIPO	G06F	17/60	No
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.